



Croatian legislations

The provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous other human rights instruments, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, define Croatia's human rights obligations as a member of the international community. Importantly, Croatia has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and is bound by the terms of these conventions. Croatia is also a member of the Council of Europe and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence entered into force October 01, 2018.

<p>Act on Protection against Domestic Violence, (Official Gazette Narodne novine No. 70/2017)</p>	<p>The new Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence was entered into force on 1 January 2018.</p> <p>The Act prescribes rights of victims of domestic violence, defines protected persons and forms of domestic violence, sets sanctions for misdemeanours, procedures for data gathering and sets out the rules for the operation of a special committee for follow-up and improvement of the work of bodies involved in criminal or misdemeanour prosecution of domestic violence offences. Special protection is guaranteed for persons with disabilities and the elderly. However, certain categories, such as intimate partners who are not in a formal relationship or not living together or who do not have joint children are not covered by specific provisions on protection against domestic violence, but only under general provisions sanctioning violent behaviours.</p> <p>Implementing regulations – Rules of procedure in case of domestic violence, Regulations on implementation of protective measures prescribed by law.</p>
<p>The Criminal Law (Official Gazette, NN 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17) https://www.zakon.hr/z/98/Kazneni-zakon</p>	<p>The new Criminal Law entered into force on 1 January 2013.</p> <p>The new Criminal Code came into force on January 1, 2013. This Code repealed the offense of Violent conduct within the family (Article 215a of the Criminal Code, Official Gazette No. 110/97 with numerous amendments), but further enhanced the protection of all family members from violence because violence towards family members is defined as more serious form of a series of other crimes (e.g. bodily injury, serious bodily injury, rape and other), and is punishable by more severe penalties.</p> <p>Crimes against sexual freedom are covered by Chapter XVI of the Criminal Code and the provisions of Articles 152 to 157 of Criminal Code.</p>



<p>The Criminal Procedure Act (Official Gazette No. NN 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17)</p>	<p>Criminal Procedure Act along with other novelties, has changed the position of the victim of criminal offence in criminal proceedings.</p> <p>While the victim under the 1997 Law was not a special party in the process, according to the new Law, she has a special status of special party, with special procedural rights. The victim in the criminal proceedings can act as the injured person, which means that she is entitled to all the rights that belong to the injured (see catalog of the rights of injured person in the Article 47, CPC, 2008), with a special emphasis on the possibility of continuing the prosecution that the State Attorney's Office gave up on, alerting you to the facts and proposing evidence and acting as holder of the property claim.</p> <p>The law classifies groups of victims in several categories and each category according to affiliation, grants certain rights to victims.</p>
<p>Gender Equality Act (NN 82/08, 69/17)</p>	<p>Gender equality act defines that sexual harassment shall be deemed to be discrimination within the meaning of this Act. Sexual harassment is defined as any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that occurs with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an unpleasant, hostile, degrading or offensive environment.</p> <p>Ombudsperson for Gender Equality is an independent body in charge of combating discrimination based on sex, marital and family status, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation and gender identity. The Ombudsperson is authorised to investigate individual complaints prior to the legal proceedings and to conduct, with the consent of the parties involved, a mediation process with a possibility to reach an out-of-court settlement.</p>
<p>Family Law (NN 103/15)</p>	<p>Regulation of domestic violence in the Family Law is primarily focused on the protection of children from other family members and bind parents to taking action to protect children from abusive family members, but also includes provisions on personal rights and responsibilities of spouses (Article 32), which implies mutual support, mutual respect and equality of spouses.</p>
<p>Special Act on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence (NN 64/2015)</p>	<p>Special Act on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during Armed Aggression on the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War was enacted in 2015. It guarantees the recognition of special status and rights to all victims of</p>



	<p>sexual violence committed during the period of armed aggression from 5 August 1990 to 30 June 1996, regardless of gender.</p>
<p>The National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence for the period 2017 – 2022</p>	<p>The National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence for the period 2017 – 2022 places emphasis on violence against women and majority of measures envisaged in Strategy actually refer to various obligations arising from the Istanbul Convention and methods and time-frame for their implementation. The new Strategy envisages implementation of 33 measures across 7 areas: prevention, upgrading legislative framework, providing assistance to victims of domestic violence, psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence, enhancing intersectoral cooperation, education of experts and raising sensitivity and public awareness about the issue of domestic violence.</p>
<p>The National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality</p>	<p>The fundamental policy instrument for combating gender discrimination in the Republic of Croatia is the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which is adopted and implemented in continuous five-year periods. The new national gender equality policy, which was supposed to be drafted and adopted in 2016, is still in the process of preparation.</p> <p>Eradication of gender-based violence has been dealt with in the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality at the level of awareness-raising and educational activities. Campaigns, workshops, lectures, forums and roundtable discussions were organised in the period from 2011 to 2015 concerning the problem of gender motivated violence, including trafficking in human beings and prostitution and violence against LGBT persons.</p>
<p>The Domestic Violence Case Practice Protocol</p>	<p>The Domestic Violence Case Practice Protocol was adopted in 2005 and it lays down obligations of competent authorities and other stakeholders to participate in the detection and eradication of violence, as well as detailed rules and procedures for the provision of assistance and protection to victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>The Protocol contains a number of precisely determined measures of the competent bodies concerning their procedures, and in relation to the form, contents and methods of cooperation of the bodies that participate in detecting and suppressing violence and providing assistance to persons exposed to any form of domestic violence (the police, social welfare centres, health and educational</p>



	<p>institutions, judicial bodies). The Protocol pays special attention to the procedure of competent bodies related to child victims of domestic violence or to the witnesses of the domestic violence that has been committed.</p>
<p>The Protocol for Action in Cases of Sexual Violence (2018)</p>	<p>The Protocol for Action in Cases of Sexual Violence was adopted in 2014 and is updated 2018. It recognises the fact that sexual violence, in addition to domestic violence, is a dominant form of gender based violence, where the majority of cases involve male perpetrators and female victims. The Protocol prescribes obligations of competent bodies and rules of procedure to be followed in cases of sexual violence. It also aims to enhance intersectoral cooperation of all bodies involved. The Protocol aims to introduce standardised procedures in cases of sexual violence and equal practices of all competent bodies on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, high quality medical assistance and emotional support, protection of personal data, which should serve to reduce sexual violence in the long-term and increase the probability of reporting and prosecuting cases of sexual violence.</p> <p>The Protocol on the procedure in cases of sexual violence among other things stipulates the obligations of educational institutions in dealing with victims of sexual violence. Immediately upon receiving the information, it is the duty of the educational staff to initiate a conversation with a student for their protection. It is desirable that the conversation is conducted by a professional. The educational workers who have knowledge of a possible sexual harassment or sexual violence report their findings to the principal. If it is an incident that has just occurred, the victim is required, without delay, to be provided appropriate assistance and protection, and the incident must be reported to the police immediately. The person who conducts the interview with the student or the source of information is obliged to keep a log. The obligation of the interviewer is to inform these students about further actions. The student needs to know what comes after each procedure, about possible obstacles and difficulties, and the final goal of the proceeding. Throughout the whole process it is necessary to take care of the safety of students and those who are a source of information.</p>
<p>Protocol in cases of violence among children and youth (2004)</p>	<p>In Croatia, all authorities in charge proceed according to the Protocol in cases of violence among children and youth (2004). It lays down the obligations of relevant state bodies: educational institutions, social welfare centers and the</p>



	<p>Police Department, but also forms and aspects of cooperation between the competent state bodies and other stakeholders, as well as other activities and obligations. The protocol does not mention violence in relationships of young people, but is instead focused on peer violence, i.e. violence among children and youth, which is defined as any intentional physical or psychological bullying directed at children and young people by their peers with the intention of harming, which could differ, irrespective of the place of performance, in form, complexity, intensity and duration, and which includes the repetition of the same pattern and maintains an unequal balance of power (the strong against the weak or the group against the individual).</p>
<p>Protocol on the procedure in case of abuse and neglect of children (2014)</p>	<p>The basic objectives of the Protocol are the following: - improving the well-being of children by preventing abuse and neglect, ensuring that all actions taken and decisions reached are timely and in the best interests of the child, a long-term impact on the reduction of abuse and neglect of children.</p>

Legal definitions

“Domestic violence” is any form of physical, mental, sexual or economic violence, in particular: physical violence or the use of physical force, regardless of whether physical injury resulted or not; corporal punishment and other forms of degrading treatment of children in the educational purposes; psychological violence, or the application of psychological pressure that caused a feeling of fear, danger, distress or injury to dignity, verbal violence, verbal assaults, insults, cursing, name calling, or otherwise crude verbal harassment, stalking or harassment through all means of communication or through electronic and printed media or otherwise, or to communicate with third parties, illegal isolation or threat to freedom of movement; sexual violence or sexual harassment or economic violence such as damage or destruction of personal and common property, banning or preventing the use of personal and joint property including the attempts to do so, as well as deprivation of rights or prohibition of having personal income and property acquired by inheritance or personal work at your disposal, exclusion from employment or work, forced economic dependence, denial of funds for maintenance of the common household and care for children or other dependents of a common household.

Legal Source: Law on the Protection from Domestic Violence and Criminal Code



Psychological violence is recognized as a form of domestic violence in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.

Psychological violence, or the use of psychological pressure that causes a sense of fear, danger, distress or offense against dignity, verbal violence, verbal assaults, insults, swearing, name calling, or otherwise rough verbal harassment, stalking or harassment via all means of communication or through electronic and printed media or in any other manner or in communication with third parties, illegal isolation or endangering the freedom of movement (e.g. humiliation, public ridicule, name calling, swearing, criticizing other people's ideas and actions, interrupting people while they talk, shouting, twisting everything someone says, downplaying and denial of violence, blaming the victim for the violent behavior, ignoring, intimidation, threats, physical display of superiority, prohibitions, stalking, tracking, controlling the telephone, mail and personal belongings, the destruction of personal belongings, threat of suicide).

Physical violence has been recognized as a form of domestic violence in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.

Physical violence and use of physical force, regardless of bodily injury (e.g. pushing, hitting, slapping, choking, strangulation, physical restraint, pressing, pinching, preventing physical movement, scratching, shaking, burning with cigarette, tearing clothes from the person, throwing objects, throwing or destroying things in the house)

Economic violence is recognized as a form of domestic violence in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.

Economic violence, which includes damage or destruction of personal and joint assets, banning or disabling the use of personal and joint property or attempting to do so, deprivation of rights or prohibition of disposing with personal income or property acquired through personal work or inheritance, disabling the employment or work, forced economic dependency, denial of funds for the maintenance of joint household and care for children or other dependents of a joint household (e.g. withholding money, ban on getting employed, managing personal property without the knowledge or approval, deciding what and when to be purchased, requesting each small expense be justified, independent decision-making).

Sexual violence is recognized as a form of domestic violence in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.

Sexual violence is defined by the World Health Organization as any sexual act, attempt to realise the sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or suggestions that are directed against a person and her sexuality, which can be committed by another person regardless of their relationship to the victim or their situation. It is characterized by the use of force, threats or blackmail to endanger the welfare and/or the life of the victim or persons close to her.

Sexual harassment is recognized as a criminal offense in the new Croatian Criminal Code, which entered into force on January 1, 2013. It includes unwanted sexual behavior that does not necessarily involve physical contact, by which a person is put into an uncomfortable and humiliating position, and causes a feeling of shame. Any verbal, nonverbal, or physical unwanted conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or actually constitutes violation of dignity of a person, causing fear, hostile, humiliating or offensive environment.

Observations:



Whoever sexually harasses another person to which he is superior or which according to him is in a relation of dependency or that is especially vulnerable because of age, illness, disability, addiction, pregnancy, serious physical or mental disorders, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year.

Sexual abuse / sexual assault /forced sexual acts is a very broad category that includes more serious forms of sexual violence than sexual harassment but still do not fall into the category of rape under existing laws. It includes unwanted sexual behavior elicited by the use of and/or threats and involves physical contact with the perpetrator.

Forms of sexual abuse -unwanted / forced bodily contact, touching intimate parts of the body, sexual activity manipulated through lies, threats, pressure, forcing someone to masturbate, to watch masturbation, to perform masturbation on the perpetrator or to masturbate while the perpetrator is watching.

In Croatia, the term "sexual intercourse without consent" is the one most closely related to sexual assault, which means: whoever performs sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with another person, without her consent, or induces another person, without her consent, to perform sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with a third person, or performs a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse on herself, without her consent, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years.

Rape is the most serious form of sexual violence that leaves long-term psychological consequences. Croatian Criminal Code provides a very broad definition of rape, according to which rape includes vaginal, anal and/or oral penetration by a penis or objects.

With regard to the perpetrator of the rape, the following types are recognized: rape as a part of domestic violence (spousal rape), rape in relationships / date rape, rape by a stranger, gang rape, and rape in armed conflicts and war.

Whoever coerces another by force or by threat of immediate attack upon his life or limb, or the life or limb of a person close to him, to sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act shall be punished by imprisonment for three to ten years.

Special circumstances (in the same legal provision):

Whoever commits the criminal offense in a particularly cruel or humiliating way, or if on the same occasion a number of perpetrators perform a number of acts of sexual intercourse or equivalent sexual acts against the same victim shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three years.

If, by the criminal offense the death of the raped person is caused, or serious bodily injury is inflicted on the raped person or his health is severely impaired, or the (raped) female becomes impregnated, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three years.

If the criminal offense referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article is committed against a juvenile, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three years.

Stalking

In Croatia, "**intrusive behavior**" is whoever consistently and over time follows or watches another person or establishes or tries to establish with her unwanted contact or in some other way tries to scare her and, with that, causes anxiety or fear for her safety or the safety of those close to her, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year.



If the criminal offence is committed against a current or former spouse, common law spouse, same-sex partner, person with whom the perpetrator was in an intimate relationship or a child, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment up to three years.

Teen dating violence

- intimate partners who are not in a formal relationship or not living together or who do not have joint children are not covered by specific provisions on protection against domestic violence, but only under general provisions sanctioning violent behaviours.

Rights of victims

A victim of a criminal offense has a right to: effective psychological and other professional assistance and support of the body, organization or institution for assistance to victims of crime pursuant to the Law, participate in criminal proceedings as an injured person, other rights prescribed by law.

Victim of a criminal offense for which a punishment of imprisonment of five years or more is prescribed has a right to: the advisor at the expense of state budget funds before testifying in criminal proceedings and the filing of claims for indemnification, in case of severe psychophysical impairment or serious consequences of criminal offense, the pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages from the state funds pursuant to prescribed conditions and the law. If the victim has filed property claims, content of claims will be taken into account, and court will apply similar procedure if the victim previously received compensation from the state fund.

Victim of a criminal offense against sexual freedom and sexual morality has the right to: talk to a counsellor before the investigation at the expense of state budget funds, to be questioned by persons of the same sex at the police and the state attorney's office, refuse to answer questions that relate to strictly personal aspects of the life of the victim, ask to testify through an audio-video device, request confidentiality of personal information, request for the exclusion of the public from the hearing.

Before the first questioning, the court, State Attorney's Office, investigator and the police have to familiarize the victim of the criminal offense with her/his rights.

Source: www.pravosudje.hr

Rules of Procedure in Cases of Domestic Violence

The Police

The police are obliged to respond to your call, collect information and data on violence, bring the perpetrator in and keep him in detention if the legal requirements are fulfilled. File criminal or misdemeanor charges against the perpetrator, seek custody for the perpetrator and protection measures for you. The police are also required to inform you about your rights and options for accommodation in shelters or homes for children and adult victims of domestic violence.

Promptly send to the location of event, when possible, at least two police officers (preferably of both sexes) to verify the report or request (verification must be made even in the case the house or apartment is closed).



Undertake immediate measures to immediately protect and provide necessary medical and other assistance to the person injured by violence, and to prevent the perpetrator from further violent behavior

Gather evidence and collect information necessary to clarify and prove the misdemeanor or criminal offenses of violent conduct within a family.

Gather evidence and collect information in a manner that will provide an opportunity for the victim to communicate freely and without fear with the police officer, in the separate areas, without the presence of the perpetrator of violence, any information relevant for the identification of violence.

If information is obtained about illegal or legal possession of weapon, the necessary measures will be undertaken to locate and seize it as well as file criminal charges.

Bring the perpetrator to the police station and keep him in detention, file the request for a misdemeanor procedure due to misdemeanor or file the criminal charge for the offence and escort the perpetrator to the misdemeanor judge or investigative magistrate.

Seek the appropriate protective measures or safeguards.

If the misdemeanor judge does not order detention, or the investigating magistrate does not rule that the accused person is kept in custody, the victim shall be immediately informed.

If the victim is a child or a minor, or he/she is a witness of violence, proceedings are taken over by police officers specialized for juvenile delinquency.

Inform the victim of violence about her legal rights, especially the protective measures and the measures and actions that police will further implement against the perpetrator of violence.

If a victim of violence seeks placement in a shelter or home for children and adults who are victims of domestic violence, the center for social welfare will be asked to promptly place the victim in an adequate shelter, and if the center is not able to take the victim to the shelter, police officers will take her to the shelter, respecting the confidentiality and security of the shelter.

If there is a need to find urgent accommodation for a victim of domestic violence, particularly a child or a minor, or conduct an interview with a child or a minor, social worker from the center for social welfare should be immediately invited to come and intervene.

Enter the data about the offense, the perpetrator and the victims, the proposed and undertaken police protective measures in the Records of Offences of Violent behavior in the family.

In case the violence is committed by a person treated for alcoholism or other addictions, and / or by persons with mental disturbance, immediately notify the center for social welfare in order to undertake measures stipulated by law.

Centers for Social Welfare

Centers for social welfare are obliged to report violence to the police, to inform you about your rights and assist you in exercising these rights. In urgent cases, such as taking measures to remove the immediate threat to life and health, the center shall pass verbal decision for your immediate protection, and order the execution of the decision without delay.

Immediately upon receipt of such information report it to the police regardless of whether it was already reported by another body, and immediately open a file.

Inform the victim of violence of her legal rights, especially the rights of the child, about the competence and procedures of the center for social welfare, as well as measures and actions that center for social welfare will further undertake.



Together with the victim of violence develop her security plan, facilitate the realization of the right to free legal aid and representation at the Croatian Bar Association, the right to free medical care, or refer her to the appropriate counseling.

In the case of criminal or misdemeanor proceedings, consider whether interests and rights of the child are completely protected, if not, nominate a child's guardian.

Allow the victim to freely and fearlessly express all the facts relevant to the determination of violence.

Urgently establish the relevant facts through means of investigation and other appropriate means (interviews with the staff of educational institutions, family physician and all other persons who could provide valid information).

Employees of the center for social welfare are required to write a note, report, or record for every action taken in the case of domestic violence.

After collecting all the necessary facts, the center for social welfare carries out the procedure for the realization of the rights of the victim and children, pursuant to the Act on Social Welfare.

In case of family violence committed by a parent who does not live with the child, it should be considered whether it is necessary to make a decision prohibiting the parent's visits and gatherings in regards to the interests of the child.

In urgent cases, such as taking measures to remove the immediate threat to the life or health of a family member-victim of family violence, center for social welfare shall act ex officio and issue an oral decision for the immediate protection of victims, especially children, and order the execution of the decision without delay.

Employee of the center for social welfare is bound to respond immediately to the call from the police for the purpose of providing immediate care to a child or minor, and for an interview in proceedings related to family violence.

Health institutions

Hospitals are required to report violence to the police according to the Law on Protection from Family Violence, perform a thorough examination to determine the type of injuries you suffered. Determine the cause and means by which the injury was caused and conduct a complete medical examination.

Talk with the victim about possibilities of resolving the problem, advise her, refer the victim to other means of support provided by non-governmental organizations, and inform her about her statutory rights and further processing depending on the needs.

In case of physical injury caused by a family member, physician of the Emergency Care, or primary care physician is obliged to fill out the Report of Injury / Illness form No: 030911 or No: 03 055, according to the Law on Protection against Family Violence, and mark the report with the number containing date, month and year in which the injury occurred (marking the section 4). The form must be entered in a separate protocol and the file of the patient.

At the request of the State Attorney's Office or the police, medical institutions are obliged to submit all documentation that is relevant for the clarification of the case and presentation of evidence related to the criminal offense.

If the perpetrator of family violence is a person with mental disturbance or has been treated for alcoholism and other addictions, when necessary, he should be referred to treatment or involuntary hospitalization and the Centre for Social Welfare and the police should be informed, and medical professionals must inform the victim before his release.



Educational institutions

Educational institutions shall ensure that the rights of the child are exercised in cases of all forms of violence, sexual abuse, neglect, educational neglect, negligent behaviour, abuse and exploitation. All educational institutions shall implement the existing preventive and intervention programmes, as well as to develop new ones where necessary.

Teachers shall urgently initiate a procedure to protect the rights of the child and shall notify any action harmful to the child to the principal or expert associate.

The educational institution shall notify the competent institutions and authorities, and the competent institutions and authorities shall give feedback on the procedure for the comprehensive approach to the protection of the child's rights and interests.

In cases of violence towards a pupil, employees of the educational institution shall take immediate action to stop the violence, and to provide help in accordance with their competence. If the pupil is hurt to the extent that they require medical assistance, particularly urgent medical assistance, the teacher or principal shall call the physician or ambulance immediately, and act according to the recommendations.

The education institution shall, where necessary, immediately call the police, or notify the incident to the police and the social care centre. In case of a particularly severe form or intensity of violence that caused or may cause trauma in the child victim or other pupils, the education institution shall notify the ministry competent for educational affairs and, where necessary, other ministries, and will be able to request appropriate professional psychological or social/pedagogical help for the pupils of the education institution.

Where a criminal offence is suspected, the teachers shall secure the tracks and evidence of the criminal offence inside the educational institution until the arrival of the police, and prevent them from being destroyed, concealed, altered or removed from the scene.

The teachers shall keep official record of their observations and of all activities and measures taken to protect the rights of the pupils, which they shall present to the principal in writing, as well as to other competent authorities upon request (the police, State Attorney, court). The expert associate or other teachers responsible for reporting violence in the educational institution shall, in the case of peer violence (except in confrontations lacking elements of violence) or suspected family violence, complete the form of the violence report as soon as possible and no later than seven days after the incident.

The State Attorney's Office

The state attorney's office is obliged to consider report of violence by the police or you, and solve it by initiating criminal proceedings or dismissing the case. If the State Attorney's Office dismisses the charges, they must notify you.

The State Attorney's Office is obliged to record the report or any other statement from the citizens in order to perform the actions for which it is authorized.

If the person receiving the statement determines that it is not founded, he or she shall inform the party that gave the statement. If after this information the party requests acceptance of the statement, it will be recorded and the information given to the party will be noted in the file.

In each case where a known natural or legal person filed criminal charges, the State Attorney's Office must solve charge.



If the perpetrator is unknown, the State Attorney's Office will request from the police to identify the perpetrator. When the perpetrator is known, the State Attorney's Office shall, immediately or after investigative actions, solve criminal charges either by initiating criminal proceedings or by dismissing charges.

If the State Attorney's Office dismisses the charges, it shall notify the victim, who can take over the prosecution, and in certain cases defined by the law, it will notify the applicant. If criminal charges were dismissed, the victim has a right to undertake a criminal prosecution.

Courts

Courts govern criminal or misdemeanor proceedings, and upon request must inform you of your rights, the outcome of the procedure and give you a copy of the valid ruling.

The court before which the misdemeanor or criminal case is being processed, connected to the protection and interest of the child will inform the competent social welfare centre and the police on the start of the proceedings and the valid rulings passed in the misdemeanor or criminal proceedings. During the course of the proceedings, the party who is a victim of family violence will be informed, upon request, on the relevant legal rights, taking into account the need to explain these rights to a legally ignorant victim, i.e. party

The courts will, upon personal request of the party-victim of family violence, legal representative and / or guardian, notify that person on the outcome of the proceedings and deliver her a copy of the valid court ruling.

Courts will maintain a record of the implemented protection measures as prescribed by the Law on Protection against Family Violence and submit them to the Ministry in charge of justice affairs.

Organize the work of Misdemeanor Courts in such a way that they can conduct the proceedings during weekends and holidays.

In cases of family violence the judges of the Misdemeanor Courts and investigating magistrates will ensure the reception of the defendant or suspect for the purpose of ordering detention in misdemeanor proceedings or custody in criminal offences' proceedings, and question the defendant or suspect and decide on further proceedings.

The courts will ensure protection of the victim upon arrival to court and inside the court premises, and enable the victim to give evidence separately from the perpetrator, as well as provide physical protection of the victim in cooperation with the police.

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